

# Shire

Your local community newspaper with news and views from the Shirehampton area

No. 582 - July 2020 [www.shire.org.uk](http://www.shire.org.uk) 5,000 copies monthly

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## Shire Thanks Keyworkers

Shirehampton has shown its community spirit during the last few months when in lockdown. Every Thursday you can hear clapping, cheering, saucepan banging and singing all around the streets and houses in support of the NHS and keyworkers. Like the rest of the country the community recognises the hard work and sacrifices people have been making.

Shire Christmas Illuminations Committee wanted to add visual support for NHS and Key workers too and set up the Blue Heart Lamppost fundraiser. The community had the opportunity to donate, deliver a personal message and bring some positivity and cheer to Shire. The village is now filled with blue hearts. Take a walk during the lockdown and read the wonderful messages of support.

All monies donated will benefit NHS charity and Bristol North West Foodbank.



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# Shire

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Artwork: Iain Chaffey of Crimson Goose Design

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N.B. To meet the deadline with our typesetters, all written copy should be submitted by email or to the Library by the 10th of the month before it appears in print, or it may not be included in the next edition.

While advertisements in this paper are accepted in good faith, readers are advised to make their own enquiries and assessment. We request that all adverts are supplied in the correct format and size or there may be a charge should you require artwork to be created. Price on application.

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Any material published is at the editor's discretion and may also be included on our website [www.shire.org.uk](http://www.shire.org.uk) unless the copy is clearly marked 'not to be included on the world wide web'.

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# SHIRE PUBLIC INFO FOR JULY

Since all events are cancelled and there are no ongoing group activities to inform you about, we've decided to make the What's On page a General Public Service Announcement page.

## RECENT COUNCIL ADVICE AS OF 18TH JUNE

Bristol has followed public health guidance well so far, however, we must continue our efforts to limit the virus being passed on to others and avoid a second spike. The risk to our health still exists and our message remains the same:

Stay at home as much as you can, keep maintaining good hygiene such as hand washing;

Continue to work from home and only visit shops when absolutely necessary;

If you are travelling, please walk or cycle if you can, avoid peak travel times and prioritise public transport for those key workers who need it most;

Social distancing is still one of the most important prevention measures, so please keep your distance and wear face coverings, especially when near a lot of people or in enclosed spaces;

If shops or shopping areas become too busy and you cannot safely socially distance, please leave the area.

## EASING LOCKDOWN

**Saturday 13th June at 10am**, single adult households (adults living on their own or single parents with children under 18) will be allowed to form a "support bubble" with another household, and be able to interact with each other without social distancing.

**Monday 15 June "non-essential" retail** such as clothing shops and department stores, including our major shopping areas, Cabot Circus and the Galleries will re-open. Please try to limit visits where possible to avoid risk of infection. Please continue to walk, cycle or drive if you can; only using public transport if you have no other means of getting to your destination.

Please continue to stay home as much as possible, maintain handwashing and if you are in a public place, avoid the risk of infection by leaving the area if it is busy. We must also continue to prioritise public transport for key workers, by staggering the times we are travelling and going out.

## PARKS

There are a number of changes being made in our parks to respond to the relaxation on restrictions from government. These are:

- Multi-use games areas (e.g. hard court, enclosed spaces like basketball courts) across the city opened on **Wednesday 10 June**.
- Tips for keeping multi-use games area safe:
  - Play with a maximum of six people in your group
  - Do not share equipment
  - Keep 2m apart at all times.



**Remember not to visit the areas if you have coronavirus symptoms, and please wash your hands as soon as you arrive home.**

Under government guidance, play areas and equipment remain closed.

We continue to look at how we can safely reopen public toilets and we are working with the Police to reiterate message of not going to the toilet in public spaces.

Food/refreshment outlets in our parks have now reopened.

## PLACES OF WORSHIP REOPENING

From **Monday 15 June**, places of worship will be permitted to open for individual prayer in line with social distancing guidelines. We recognise this will be long-awaited good news for people of all faiths, who have shown enormous patience and have been unable to gather to mark significant moments such as Easter, Ramadan, Eid, Passover and Vaisakhi together.

Communally led prayer will not be possible at this stage, and individual places of worship are able to open at their own discretion, when they consider it safe to do so.

## KARSHARE

If you have a car or van that's currently not being used, and you'd be prepared to put it to good use in the Bristol community, email: [help@karshare.com](mailto:help@karshare.com).

If you're an NHS, hospice, care home, community meals service, food bank worker or volunteer, and you are struggling with transportation, please visit the Karshare website and enter your details. The Karshare team will do their best to match you with an appropriate vehicle (free of charge) as soon as possible.

[www.karshare.com/bristol](http://www.karshare.com/bristol)

## SHIRE NEWSPAPER AGM

Shire Newspaper will hold its Annual General Meeting on Monday 3rd August 2020 at 5:00 pm.

Due to Covid-19 safe distancing requirements the meeting will **NOT** be open to the public this year.

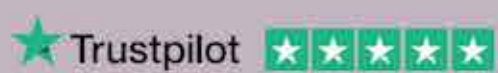




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# The *Shire* Community Page

## Apology

Shire Newspaper apologises unreservedly to Darren Jones MP for the satirical article and derogatory comments that have appeared on the eShire website over the last three months. Shire is a non-political publication and we deeply regret any offence caused by the article and comments which appeared without the Editors knowledge or consent.

*Chairperson, Shire Newspaper*

## Volunteer Opportunity

I wonder how many of us have been inspired to volunteer during this lockdown period? I wonder how many of you have missed having the Shire delivered to your door? Well now is the chance to combine your desire to volunteer with being part of this really great paper that keeps us in touch each month and also provides some financial support each year to local organisations through the advertising revenue.

We are looking for a new Advertising Manager and before you think 'that's not for me' or 'I couldn't do that', please read on.

Most of our advertisers are regular advertisers and there is no action that needs to be taken. If they want to remove or update their adverts, they let you know, and you tell our designer and he does the work – so that's just an email. New advertisers need to know how the system works – so that involves sending out an email with our Terms & Conditions and a Booking Form and perhaps a chat over the phone or a couple of emails. New advertisers will send you their advertisement. This gets sent to our designer and, once again, he does the work!

Monthly records are kept on a spreadsheet so an ability to use one is needed.

Of course, there is more involved, I won't pretend there isn't, but it is simple and straightforward, and it is really good to be involved in the production of the Shire.

Please if you want to know more, email me on [adverts@shire.org.uk](mailto:adverts@shire.org.uk) or call the enquiry phone 07580 776 199.

*Dorothy Jenner, Advertising Manager*

## MP Update from Darren Jones MP

Darren would like to thank everyone in Shire for the many personal sacrifices that they've had to make to keep the COVID infection rate down. He knows parents of pupils at Oasis Academy, Shirehampton Primary and Nova Primary will be anxious about the return to school and that many people will be nervous about their jobs.

It is Darren's priority to do all that he can to help ensure this transition from lock down to recovery works as well as possible. He has been in conversations with local head teachers about the return to school and will keep in touch with local employers, our Mayor and other support organisations to ensure everyone has the best possible advice and support. He encourages you to contact him if you need any help or advice.

As the new chair of the **House of Commons Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy Committee** he invites you to get in touch with



him with any problems or concerns that you would like him to raise nationally too.

Darren has found it a privilege to see the positive efforts of so many residents coming together to volunteer. Many people in Shire have been coordinating food deliveries and volunteering at the Foodbank in Avonmouth. Darren has now launched the **Coronavirus Community Heroes Awards** and hopes that you might nominate an individual or local organisation that has gone above and beyond these past few months. You can do that on his website at [www.darren-jones.co.uk/heroes](http://www.darren-jones.co.uk/heroes). If you aren't online, please get in touch with his office and they'll take the details for you.

Until we are able to safely hold public events again, Darren will continue to hold online or telephone surgeries, Facebook Live Q&As and other online events (including a virtual coffee morning on July 4th).

All of the details are on his website ([www.darren-jones.co.uk](http://www.darren-jones.co.uk)) and Facebook page ([www.facebook.com/darrenjonesmp](https://www.facebook.com/darrenjonesmp)). Or you can contact him on [darren.jones.mp@parliament.uk](mailto:darren.jones.mp@parliament.uk) or call the office on 0117 959 6545.

## Help for the Visually Impaired

**With non-essential shops due to reopen on 15 June, it is expected that these will use visual markers to signify the correct distance from others, one-way systems and designated queuing areas.**

With social distancing now part of everyday life it is important to highlight that not everyone can maintain the required distance as easily as others.

**People who are blind and partially sighted can struggle to know when they are getting closer to someone**, or if someone is approaching them. And guide dogs, of course, aren't trained to help in this regard. In general, people are supportive, but there have been occasions when individuals with

sight loss have been challenged or even shouted at for coming too close to others, when the reality is they simply weren't aware of it.

In such uncertain times, tensions over distancing can rise. But we would ask that if you feel someone seems to be ignoring the restrictions, consider for a moment whether that person, rather than being careless, might not be able to fully see you.

Hundreds of thousands of people in England are living with a degree of sight loss. **Please be aware that some people do need just a little extra thought.**

*Keith Valentine,*

*Royal National Institute of Blind People (RNIB)*

**CONTACTING YOUR LOCAL COUNCILLOR**  
Shirehampton is in the Avonmouth and Lawrence Weston Ward

**Your Councillors are:**  
Donald Alexander – Labour: [cllr.donald.alexander@bristol.gov.uk](mailto:cllr.donald.alexander@bristol.gov.uk)  
Matthew Melias – Conservative: [cllr.matthew.melias@bristol.gov.uk](mailto:cllr.matthew.melias@bristol.gov.uk)  
Jo Sergeant – Labour: [cllr.jo.sergeant@bristol.gov.uk](mailto:cllr.jo.sergeant@bristol.gov.uk)  
Conservative Members' Services Office: 0117 922 2746  
Labour Members' Services Office: 0117 922 3827

**CONTACTING YOUR MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT**  
Shirehampton is in the Bristol North West Constituency  
**Darren Jones**  
Phone: 01179596545 • Email: [darren.jones.mp@parliament.uk](mailto:darren.jones.mp@parliament.uk)  
Website: [www.darren-jones.co.uk](http://www.darren-jones.co.uk)



# Letters to the Editor



**LETTER FROM THE EDITOR**

We enjoy spreading community news especially in these strange times. We love to hear from all our readers of both the online and printed versions. Send in your stories to [editor@shire.org.uk](mailto:editor@shire.org.uk).

Although, if requested, we will not print the name of a letter written to the Editor, we cannot accept an anonymous letter.

*Many thanks.*

## SAD NEWS

Dear Editor,

I would like to share news of my father's recent death.

My dad was a lifelong member of Shirehampton, and my grandparents owned the sweet shop in Nibley Road for many years.

My dad was a docker and very well known. My dad's name was Brinley Giles.

Many thanks.

*Lydia Edwards*

## A BIG THANK YOU FOR KEEPING SHIRE GOING WITH YOUR ONLINE EDITIONS

Dear Editor,

Thanks to you and your team for all your great work in ensuring online editions have continued to be made available during the lockdown period.

Keep safe,

*Eleanor*

*The following two letters are reprinted from our online only June edition. Shire can be enjoyed even on the other side of the world. The May and June editions can still be found on eShire - [www.shire.org.uk](http://www.shire.org.uk)*

## NICE TO READ YOU FROM THE LAND DOWN UNDER

Dear Shire,

Just wanted to say, having the PDF for the actual Shire paper was fanbloodytastic!

It's been a long time since I've seen a printed copy, and appreciate the online version, but getting the PDF complete with advertisements really made my day. It offers a much closer feel for the village and its news. Could I ask that this becomes the norm, even after the viral issue is over please. I personally would be very happy to just get the PDF!

Keep up the good work. Stay calm and think of Shire.

Cheers

*Ray Bounsall, Melbourne*

## MEMORIES FROM AUSTRALIA

Dear Editor,

We must thank you for keeping us up to date with the changes that have been made to Shire village. We used to live in Lower High Street and lived there for 39 years, we now live in Brisbane Australia and have been here for over 20 years We find your letters sent by other readers very interesting, one in particular was the one about the university building. During the war, and a while after, they organised dances to cheer up the people because of the dreadful time they were all living through. My mother in law and her friend used to go there. It was situated in Grove Leaze. I read an article about Heather Champion and mentioned it to Brian. He said he knew a Brian Champion from school days and he wondered, could he be a member of her family? We have enclosed a photo of Brian and his mentor

Bruno teaching Brian how to use the computer during our lockdown.

*Best Wishes. Maureen & Brian (Swain) Australia.*



Hello there! **Would you like to improve your well-being?**

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*Linda x x*

**Weekly classes - just come along - no need to book:**

- Monday 6.30-7.00pm, Wednesday 5.15-6.15pm and Thursday 7.00-8.00pm. **Cotswold Community Centre. Message for 1:1 technique session.**
- Bootcamps: Monday and Wednesday 6.15-7.00am. **Please message for details.**

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# Public Hall Newsletter

Dear all user groups and friends,

The Trustees hope you are keeping well, and safe in these abnormal times. The hall trustees have been trying to use the time effectively and we want to use this opportunity to bring you up to date. We have agreed as an exception to let the food bank use the hall itself for distribution purposes, with them being responsible for Covid compliance. They apparently give 40% of their supplies to the people of Shirehampton. I hope you agree this is a good thing to do.

We do have a circulation list for updates but to comply with GDPR rules, we can't say who all recipients are. **If you are reading this and would like to be on the distribution list, please let me know.**

## Building Work

During the period of lockdown we had the great news that the Council will be making a major investment to stripping and replacing the roof which should ensure that the building is structurally sound for the foreseeable future. We are aiming to time this with getting the roof fully insulated, installing potential wiring for new chandeliers, getting the clock repaired, and using the scaffold to refurbish the rendering. This it may of course lead to a period of disruption again, unless it can be done before we reopen. We are awaiting information from the City Council on the implications, and timescales and will keep you informed. As the original plans for the building were rejected by the Planners (primarily the new toilet block on the side of the building) we will have another set of draft plans ready for consultation soon.

The trustees are keen to form a subcommittee for this building project and would welcome the involvement of any users. We would particularly welcome skills in writing grant applications or other fund-raising expertise or a willingness to learn these skills. **Please contact us if you, or someone you know, might be able to help.**

## User Group Forum

Before the Covid 19 outbreak, we were keen to form a "User Group" forum, with the chair of that group having a seat on the board of trustees, giving our valued users a stronger voice. This is still the objective, and any ideas/volunteers would be very welcome. **Please send any thoughts to myself, or Gail Amphlett.** When life returns to normal, we will set up a series of user group meetings. It is vital that what we do for the hall is for the current and future users, so please do get involved to make this a success.

## People

We are fortunate to have a good team of staff in the Hall and are pleased to be able to retain their services and ensure they receive their standard salaries under the furlough scheme.

## Website

We are in the process of developing a new web site to push us forward for the next few years. John Bradford from the coding club has kindly volunteered to lead the project. **Anyone with an interest is welcome to join in the design/development of it. Please get in touch if that is you.**

## AGM

Under the current circumstances the AGM will be postponed until safe to hold it. However, we would encourage you to renew your membership if possible, which will benefit the hall and allow voting



at the AGM. **A copy of the membership form can be obtained from shirepubhall@yahoo.co.uk or see below.**

## Charges

We have obviously suspended all rental charges for the time being and are using reserves as required. When the Hall reopens, for our regular users, instead of individual monthly invoices and individual payments, it will keep (all) our costs down if we move to automatic standing orders. We will, of course reimburse your bank account for any overpayment if the Hall is closed for (say) elections. **Your comments on this will be welcome.**

In summary, whilst it appears that the world has stopped still for the hall, there is a fair bit going on, which I hope we can all participate in to make it even more lively and good to be part of.

**If you know of any of our hall users (or others in our community) that can be helped in any way by the Shirehampton Public Hall trustees, please do get in contact.**

*Stay safe, and hopefully see you all soon!*

*Warm regards,*

*Norman R., Chairperson SPH*

**shirepubhall@yahoo.co.uk**

## SHIREHAMPTON PUBLIC HALL ASSOCIATION

### Individual Membership

We would encourage that the participants in your group become members of the Public Hall Association to ensure they have a say in the running of the Hall and future development plans, including being able to vote at the AGM for the Trustees who they believe will do a good job for the Hall.

Having a large membership will also help us to demonstrate the support we have when applying for money to upgrade the building.

**Individual Membership is £3 a year.**

To comply with the requirement of the Charity Commissioners and Companies House we need to keep up to date information. We will only use member's details to send information about the Hall (events, activities and news).

We will not share or pass on their information to any other party. We need the information below on each person who is going to be a member.

The Hall Manager, Amanda Parsons, will be happy to provide paper membership forms for your members to complete, when the hall reopens, should you require them.

<b>Name:</b>	
<b>Email Address</b> (if no email, AGM info will be posted):	
<b>Address:</b>	

The membership form can be emailed to: **shirepubhall@yahoo.co.uk** or posted to **Shirehampton Public Hall, Station Rd, Bristol BS11 9TU**

The membership fee can be paid directly into the following account:

**Lloyds Bank, Sort Code 30-99-38 and Account 03194848, stating your name as reference please**  
or by **cheque payable to Shirehampton Public Hall Association.**





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\*Conditions apply



# Churches in the Shirehampton Area

## Shirehampton Baptist Church News

**During, Lock Down, our experiences have varied according to our circumstances, but life has certainly changed for us all.**

The church buildings have been shut but our leaders have risen to the challenges and provided us with services, music and prayers via You Tube, Facebook and Zoom. These have been a lifeline to many across the world.

We in Shire Baptist have **met every Sunday at 11 am for a Zoom service** which has kept us in touch with each other and our minister.

Our **Cotswold Sunday afternoon services** are still on hold awaiting the reopening of the community hall where we meet. However an event that brightened up our lives took place on June 1st when we had a Zoom birthday party. **Joan Hall** unable to have the large 90th party planned made the best of the situation and we were able to give

our greetings, sing her favourite hymn and hear from Joan how God had always been with her through the good and difficult days of her life. Joan has spent many years as a **missionary in Uganda** but now lives in Shirehampton. To add to the event Joan provided each one of us with a Cornish pasty, and a piece of birthday cake delivered by a friend.

**From June 15th churches** are open for private prayer and we hope it won't be too long before we can welcome you to our services and weekly activities.

One definition of the word, Hope, is something we have not yet received but have assurance that we will. May we all have that hope that we will be free of this virus, but for those who have faith in God, it means so much more.

*Our love and prayers to all readers come from Shire Baptist Church, Station Road.*



**Joan Hall on her 90th birthday in a splendid Ugandan dress**

## St Mary's News

**Hi Folks!**

Having been in "lock-down" now for 3 months, much of the news I have for you is what I have been able to find out from other people. Three months is the longest period in my life I have never set foot in the church. The longest period before is 3 Sundays when I have been on holiday. Jill and I have found Sunday so different from normal and we have had to suffice our normal worship by listening to the 8.00 am Morning Service on Radio Bristol, Morning Worship on BBC 1 followed by Songs of Praise. Revd Helen has also written a Reflection for each week for us to read and think about, as well as recording a sermon each week that can be found on our website and Facebook page. Eleanor, our Administrator, has even managed to set up a Dial-A-Sermon service so that those who don't have internet access can hear Helen's sermon on the phone.

We have also been fortunate to pick up a **Holy Communion Service online led by Revd Duncan Jennings** from his dining room at Thornhill, Southampton where he is Vicar of that parish. Duncan will be known to many of you as the former Organist & Choirmaster at St Mary's many years ago, and as the Head Teacher at Avon School (now known as Nova Primary School), Barracks Lane.

The Government has indicated that churches may re-open for Private Prayer during June, but St. Mary's may not re-open until early July as some refurbishment is being taken to the interior decoration. As soon as it is open, there will be notices on our noticeboard and on the church door to let you know and we shall send out emails to those on our contact list. Regrettably, Tea & Coffee cannot be served until we get the go-ahead from the

Government that it is safe to do so. I suspect that when the church is open again for Sunday Worship this will also be somewhat different, probably with social distancing measures and no singing, due to concerns over the risk of spreading infection!

**But do not despair - have you noticed our Tree of Hope in the Churchyard facing the High Street?** This is a place where you can come to be reminded that you are part of a wider family of Christians, despite us being scattered and isolated. A place where you can reflect upon the truth that our lives are always a mix of blessing and challenge. A place where you can do something tangible to express your sorrow and lament for all who suffer as a result of the pandemic, and also to give thanks for the ways that you are experiencing God's goodness and provision through this season.



You are invited to take a stone in your hand - being aware of its weight, coldness and hardness. To reflect on the things that are heavy and hard for yourselves or for others. To lay the stone down at the foot of the tree as a visual symbol of Jesus carrying our burdens. You can then take a strip of material and pause to reflect on the good things in your life (signs of God's blessing). Tie the material to the tree as a visual act of prayer. Over time the pile of stones and the number of ribbons will continue to grow, and this is a visual reminder that we are still a community of believers together

Now I know many of you enjoy the jokes I put at the end of each letter. The Ark was built with 3 storeys - the top storey had windows to let in the light. How did you get light into the first and second storey? Answer: Floodlights!

*Bye for now.*

*C.M.E.*



# Hello From Shire Methodist

[www.shiremethodist.org](http://www.shiremethodist.org) • [www.facebook.com/shiremethodist](https://www.facebook.com/shiremethodist)

As some of the lockdown restrictions have loosened, we have continued to follow the government guidelines in keeping our church building closed. We have continued to meet as a church family in many different ways: via WhatsApp messaging, Zoom, phone calls, email, YouTube and information through the post. Two of our members recently had surgery and were very encouraged to have our church family on a prayer rota. This was especially appreciated because no one was allowed to physically accompany them into the hospital.

Our minister, Reverend Patrick Stonehewer, has been videoing himself leading a time of worship each week, with a bible reading, prayers, a hymn and words of encouragement. The most up-to-date video can always be found on the church Facebook page or Revd Patrick's YouTube channel. It usually takes a little while for the website to catch up!

The end of May was marked by two special Sundays in the Methodist Church. The first was **Aldersgate Sunday (Wesley Day)** when we remember John Wesley's conversion at a Moravian Church in Aldersgate, on 24th May 1738, when he felt his heart strangely warmed and he became aware of God not only in his head but in his heart: he went on to form what became the Methodist Church. The second special Sunday was **Pentecost**, which falls 50 days after Easter Day, when we celebrate God sending the Holy Spirit to Jesus's disciples,

who became empowered to form the Christian Church and spread the message about God's love. We believe that even today we can each call on the Holy Spirit to help us when we feel weak and powerless.

Many of us have been involved in conversations around the **Black Lives Matter** movement. The Methodist Church has spoken out about this, welcoming and endorsing radical action in addressing the causes of injustice. **Revd Dr Barbara Glasson, President of the Methodist Conference**, has apologised for all the times the Methodist Church has not spoken out against the everyday injustices that are experienced by people from Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic Communities. She also apologised that the Church has not listened carefully enough and has not challenged the assumptions that come from



white privilege and bias. Our churches should feel like a safe sanctuary for everyone whatever their background. We believe that we are all made in the image of God.

All the churches in Shirehampton are continuing to hold our community in prayer and will do our best to respond to any concerns and needs. If you would like to contact us at Shire Methodist, please feel free to do this through our Facebook page or by calling 0117 924 8407.

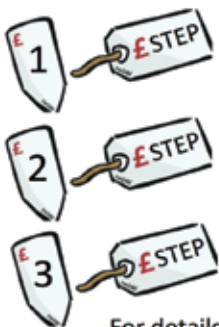
Please take a look at our website, Facebook page or noticeboard outside the church to find out if we have started meeting for our regular activities again in July.

*May God's peace be with you all during July.*

*Everyone at Shire Methodist*

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# THE GREEN PAGES

## SHIREHAMPTON CLIMATE EMERGENCY GROUP

We are local Shirehampton residents who came together a year ago because of our deep concerns about Climate Change. We wanted to know what we could do to raise awareness about Climate Change and its effects on our lives. We organized a series of free Public Talks over the winter at different venues in Shirehampton to spread information and offer opportunities for discussion. The last talk, on Flood Risk, was held at the Public Hall on March 7th just before the Corona lockdown was declared. We were meeting twice a month to talk and plan. Now Corona has knocked Climate Change off the agenda and reduced us to safe distancing and Zoom.



Because we recognize that Corona Virus is a deadly threat we, as a nation, have taken extraordinary measures to keep ourselves safe. We have stopped travelling, stopped unnecessary shopping, worked from home - all things that are necessary if we are to mitigate Climate Change. Some of you may have seen the chalk markings along the Portway cycle track saying **No Going Back**. If we are going to avoid the worst consequences of Climate Change we must continue to reduce our carbon footprints.

### There can be No Going Back

We can help to ensure Bristol has a Green Recovery by continuing to be mindful about our consumption. We all have some choice about how and how much we travel, what we eat and where the food

we buy comes from, what we wear and how many clothes we really need. What we consume produces our biggest carbon burden and we all have some control over that!

If you would like to know more about *What You Can Do to Help Create a Green Recovery* look at **Nikki Jones's** video of that title on YouTube.

And if you'd like to be in touch with others in Shirehampton who are concerned about Climate Change and what we can do about it, then contact us: [ShireClimate@gmail.com](mailto:ShireClimate@gmail.com). We look forward to meeting you.

*Renee Slater, Shirehampton Climate Emergency Group*



Shire Climate Emergency Group joined No Going Back action in Bristol for the Summer Solstice, June 21st. Our new logo designed by Helen Woodcock reminds us that we are all part of one world. It's ours to preserve and protect.

## NATURE NOTES

The picture shows three nearly independent hoglets in a friend's garden. Their mother chose to give birth in one of the white recycling bags we don't need any more! And very cosy it was too! Food and water has been provided throughout their stay, and at time of writing, the little ones had already been going out on their own at night and then returning to the nest, for a week or so. Mum was also still close by.



Our goldfinches finally produced their young at our feeder, at the beginning of June. We haven't seen as many as in previous years, but they are still a welcome sight. The starlings have also provided us with interesting antics. There was a big flock along the hedgerow nearest the river, just after the young had all fledged. The noise was incredible as they chased after the adults, trying to keep pace so as not to miss out on a meal, or worse still, lose sight of their parent! I think starling chicks are so fascinating. They are so alert and strong at such a young age! I really admire them. One youngster came to bathe in our water feature all alone a couple of weeks ago. It was absolutely drenched by the time it finished, and I can tell you it took a couple of attempts for it to take off and make it over the garden wall!

Just yesterday, whilst walking back along the tow path towards home with the dogs, I just avoided stepping on a beautiful baby slow worm. Pity I didn't have my phone with me! I waited to make sure it found its way off the path and into the undergrowth again.

I was glad to see it because a few days earlier I saw a dead adult one further along the field. Nature always in flux. Giving us pleasure, but sometimes the opposite.

*Happy nature watching.*

*Bobbie Perkins*



# Surveying at the Yellow Brick Road

The Contractors are back on the yellow brick road.

They are currently taking core samples as part of the Flood Defence programme.



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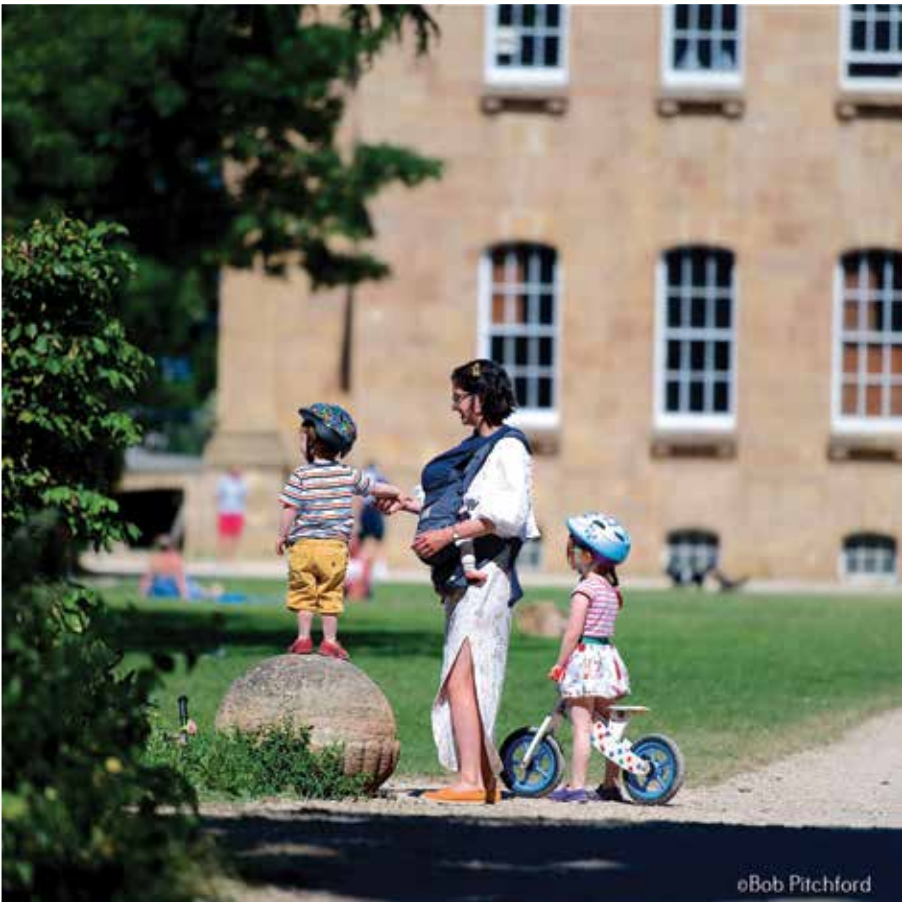


# Happy Days in Shire

The sunny weather during lockdown has helped brighten our days and allowed many of us to enjoy our daily exercise in local areas that we haven't explored before.



Smiley faces appeared over Shirehampton on the 2nd June. Rich Goodwin, a pilot, who was flying in a Pitts S2 Muscle Bi-plane which he had built himself took to the sky to cheer everyone up.



Mum Kathryn during daily exercise at Kingsweston with baby Juliet, born during Lockdown on 20th March, brother James aged 2 and sister Amber aged 4.



Kingsweston in the sunshine



Impressive tree in Kingsweston woods



High tide on the river



People walking on the yellow brick road



# Stunning Aerial Photo of Shirehampton Taken by Drone

Enjoy this wide-angle photo looking over Shirehampton taken by our resident photographer extraordinaire Bob Pitchford.



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*The following article was included in the June online edition of Shire, but presented again here for those who may have missed it.*

# Local Band Raises Money For NHS

**Bristol's favourite ska band and Shirehampton residents, The Emperials, have been running Lockdown DJ sets to keep people entertained during lockdown.**

Faced with the prospect of no live gigs for a while, they thought it would be a fun to virtually 'hang out' on the first Saturday night of lockdown. Lead signer Steve Horton turned DJ for the night, playing ska & reggae hits live from his music room in Shirehampton. The guys presumed it would be just be a one-off bit of fun with a few friends, but hundreds tuned in, had a great time and demanded it happen every week.

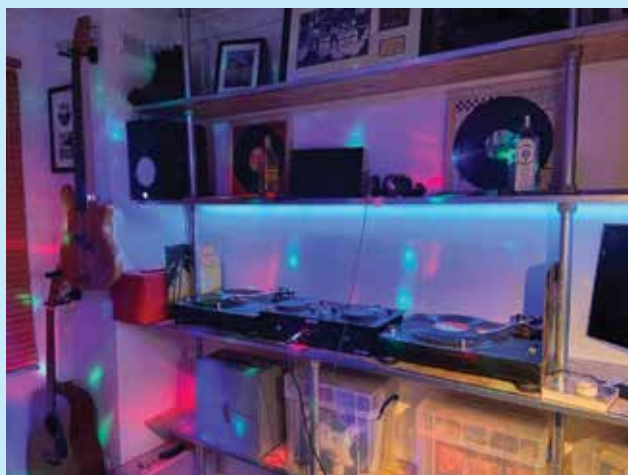
The second week the band advertised a fundraising link where viewers could donate towards frontline NHS workers. Donations came flooding in, the band matched these out of their kitty, and £1,000 was raised in 2 hours. This money was immediately sent to **Bristol Food Union to support Bristol's frontline NHS workers.** Week five has just passed which was fancy dress night, with many viewers donning their best (and worst!) outfits and sending photographs.

The live streams continue every week of lockdown, with hundreds tuning in live every Saturday night to enjoy the music, chat comments and dancing in their living rooms. Staying true to the bands style, the nights always begin with ska and reggae but often genre hop as the night goes on... Disco inferno has been popular. The unexpected bonus

is a real sense of community every Saturday night from locally and far beyond. Viewers are sending comments, requests, chatting amongst themselves, sharing a drink, checking in on each other and being together while they are kept apart. A group of neighbours are even getting together, from a social distance, for "fence parties" while streaming the sets into their gardens!

See photos of the fancy dress of Shire residents and beyond on the bands Facebook page [www.facebook.com/theemperials](https://www.facebook.com/theemperials) and tune in every Saturday at 8.30!

*Richard Williamson (Band Member)*



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# City and Port of Bristol Bowling Club

## THE STORY OF PBA BOWLS CLUB (Part 1)

*This article was previously printed in the June online only edition of Shire. We present it again for readers who may have missed it with the story continuing on the following page. We have also included photos from original newspaper cuttings of the new club being built in the early 70s taken by and with thanks to © Colin Momber.*

In a season when, for unprecedented reasons, the chances of bowling look unlikely it is good to look back and reflect on better times and to the origins of the club.

To many, the club started in 1974 when the bowling green at the **PBA Sports and Social Club** was opened. Built by **En-Tout-Cas** and started in 1973 at a cost of about £7500 it provided a home for the club founded years earlier by a few men who were keen to try this bowling lark.

**Paul Bywater** is the clubs longest standing member and he was one of the men who wanted to give it a try and did so initially in **Canford Park** during lunch breaks from the port.

Paul remembers how in about 1969 a group of people from the PBA Avonmouth Office (including himself) ate their lunch early so as to be at Canford Park by 1pm. Once a week became twice. The original bowlers were **Paul Bywater, Dave Winstone, Pete Tarrant, Keith Thompson, Bruce Tilley, Malcolm Leach and Pete Stevens**. The idea caught on and soon lads from the workshop - **Ian Wilson, Howard English and Nobby Whitehead** joined in.

From that point serious consideration was given to forming a team that would apply for friendly fixtures and hopefully be accepted in the more serious bowls league. All of the aforementioned

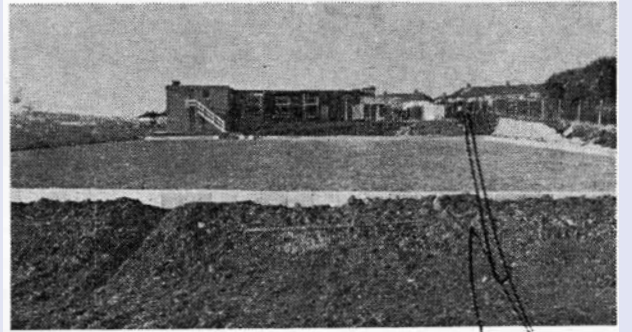
individuals were allocated a job. Paul became Match Secretary. Everybody did their bit to get things rolling but it was Ian Wilson who took a leading roll and incredibly arranged a green share with Avonmouth Bowls Club. This was at the original **Avonmouth Green** on the site of the **Avonmouth Football Club**. PBA were made very welcome at Avonmouth and flourished with the arrival of more members. **Ernie Lee** and **Ken Culverwell** from the **PBA Police**. **Arthur Horley** and his brother **Ernie** plus **Joe Kidd, Eric Lishman** and **Ray Cooper** were non-PBA people. **Bert Sweet, Neil Wilson** and **Ken McCulloch** came from **PBA Workshops**. **Ivor Simmonds** came from the **PBA Locomotive Shed** and **Roy Simmons** was from the **PBA Offices**.

With a full fixture list Paul remembers a highlight being the game against **Cope Chat in Stroud**.

The club was soon playing league bowls and surprising some of the opponents. The first league victory was on **Brandon Hill** against **Cabot** who were a very good and well-respected team. It was a very warm evening and a couple of the PBA Team, although resplendent in grey trousers sported fashionable coloured vests. This met with looks of



The site of the "new" bowling green at Nibley Road.



disdain and much whispering from the opposition and this grew as the scores pointed to a victory for the visitors. After this, correct dress was very much order of the day.

*The story continues on the next page.*



# SPORT IN SHIREHAMPTON

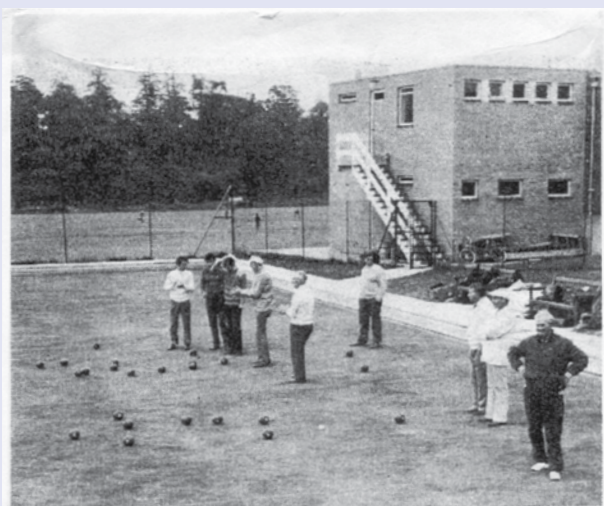
## City and Port of Bristol Bowling Club THE STORY OF PBA BOWLS CLUB (Part 2)

*Continued from previous page.*

The first part of the story ended on a high with the men's league team recording their first win, away at Cabot. So, what happened after that?

Moving on several seasons **Paul** remembers a cup game against **Redland Green** on the new but very ropery green at the PBA Club.

Redland Green had some particularly good bowlers and they were not at all impressed with what they were being asked to play on. At this point one of the Redland Green players, with a tobacco-less pipe in his mouth stepped forward and said, "but it's the same for both teams". That player was the best of the best - **David Bryant**, a name synonymous with bowls everywhere - a great player and a real gentleman.



Play in progress during the fourth round of the clubs rink competition on the new green.

In the years that followed the club name changed from PBA to City and Port of Bristol. In the early 1980s the first ladies joined what had until then been an all-male club. The first two ladies to join were - **Ivy Gingell and Angela Simmons**.

**Ian Wilson** formed a club league from all sections at the port and that, at its greatest was played on Monday and on Tuesday evenings.



The club had 140 members - so, putting your name down as available next weekend didn't guarantee you a game. Apparently doing a tea duty this week did help with selection the following week!!

In 1982/83 the **Bristol Ladies League** was formed, and the City and Port team was very much a part of it. **Irene Whitfield** was the first Captain, **Shirley Parker**, Secretary with **Pat Warren**, and **Irene Jenkins** selectors. The ladies did very well then and in the years that

followed, never dropping below division two and competing in **Top Club and Inter Club Competitions** each season.



So, that was how it all started and developed. Now - more than fifty years on from the beginnings in **Canford Park**, bowling is still being enjoyed albeit with smaller numbers than were seen in the 1980s.

The 2020 season is different to any other - into the third month since the scheduled start and not a wood has been bowled due to Coronavirus.



But, in May came some good news from the **Sports Governing Body, Bowls England**. Firstly, that greens may open and two weeks later a set of conditions, approved by the appropriate government department allowing bowling to start in a limited and controlled way. This means that up to six bowlers at a time can once again enjoy being on the green, observing conditions as set out by Bowls England.



A highlight of any season at the club is the **summer tour** and in the next edition we will be looking at the origins of tours at the club going back to the 1980s. Sadly, this year's tour, based in **Eastbourne** has fallen foul of Covid 19 but will happen in 2021.

For further information about the club and its activities please call **David Hinksman** on 0117 9082713.

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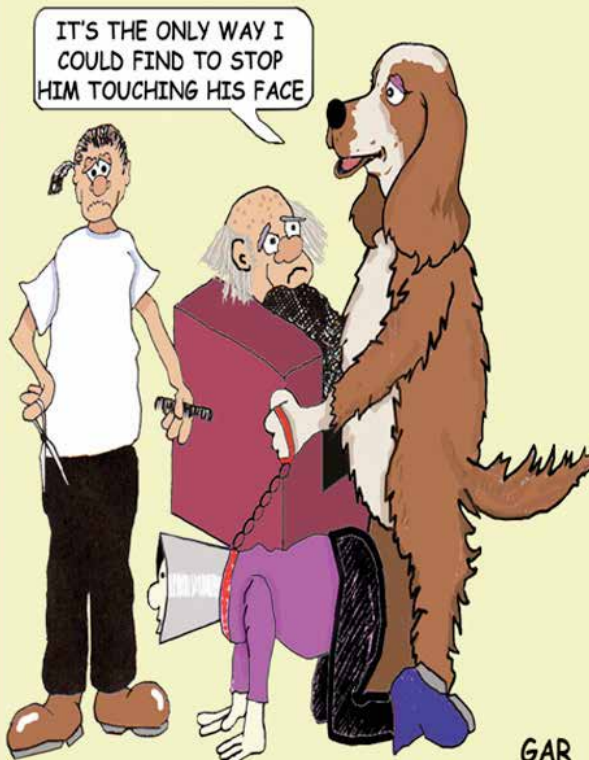
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# SS Great Britain Memories

Brunel's SS Great Britain are working with community interest company, Myers-Insole Local Learning and local volunteers to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the return of the ship and would like to talk with people who have a connection with Avonmouth in 1970, the ship or Avonmouth docks.



Avonmouth played an important part in the story of the return and we are keen to hear some of the lesser known stories relating to this part of the ship's journey.

- Do you remember seeing the SS Great Britain return in 1970?
- Maybe you worked at Avonmouth docks?
- Or perhaps you have another connection to the ship?

We will be using this research to develop a permanent installation in Avonmouth. We are also planning to follow up with some story-collection

in Avonmouth, once this is safe for participants and audiences. We would love to hear from the people who have lived, worked, or grown up in Avonmouth or Shirehampton. **Please get in touch to share your memories, stories and pictures from the past with us by email to Leila at [leilan@ssgreatbritain.org](mailto:leilan@ssgreatbritain.org) or phone on 07920 863432.**

If you would like any information about the wider project, please email Leila at [leilan@ssgreatbritain.org](mailto:leilan@ssgreatbritain.org). For more information about Local Learning, who work with schools and communities across Bristol on local heritage, visit [www.locallearning.org.uk](http://www.locallearning.org.uk).

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